



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Samuel C. Weaver

Serial No. 09/838,866

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Art Unit: 3643

Patent Examiner: Nguyen, Son T.

Our Ref: 01-211

Customer No. 30058

METAL MATRIX
COMPOSITE HORSESHOE

Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

June 6, 2005

APPLICANT'S REPLY BRIEF TO EXAMINER'S ANSWER DATED APRIL 5, 2005

This appeal is to decide whether, considering Eom¹ in view of Weaver '607², the invention of Claims 1-16 was obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time that the invention was made.

The claimed invention is a "horseshoe" that has "improved vibration damping and stiffness". The horseshoe is made of a composition that is selected from the field of "metal matrix composites". The selected metal matrix composite is composed of a metal selected from the group of aluminum, magnesium, titanium and mixtures thereof and silicon boride selected from the group of silicon hexaboride and silicon tetraboride and mixtures thereof. (Appl. Pg. 2,

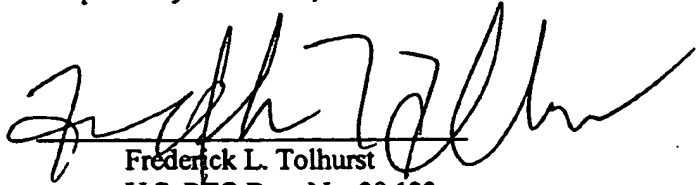
¹ U.S. Patent No. 5,344,607 to Eom et al.

² U.S. Patent No. 5,573,607 to Weaver.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 03-2026 for any fees associated with this Reply Brief.

Respectfully submitted,

By:



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